

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (currently amended). A method for soft tissue augmentation wherein said method comprises the placement of ~~hollow cylinder pellets~~ cylindrical, spherical, or doughnut-shaped pellets, wherein said pellets have a hollow conduit running therethrough, in a location where augmentation is desired such that, upon placement of the pellets in the desired location, capillaries or fibrous tissue grow into the hollow conduits thereby preventing migration of the pellets.

2 (cancelled).

3 (original). The method, according to claim 3, wherein said pellets are made from an inert physiologically non-reactive material.

4 (original). The method, according to claim 3, wherein said pellets are made from a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, dacron, silicone, and polyurethane.

5 (original). The method, according to claim 4, wherein said particles are made from polytetrafluoroethylene.

6 (original). The method, according to claim 1, wherein an injection device is used to place the pellets at a desired location.

7 (original). The method, according to claim 6, wherein said injection device is a syringe.

8 (original). The method, according to claim 1, wherein said method is used for correction of velopharyngeal insufficiency.

9 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 1, wherein said method is used to treat gastroesophageal acid reflux, urinary incontinence, or to re-position a vocal cord.

10 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 1, wherein said method is used to treat contour abnormalities or wrinkles.

11 – 19 (cancelled).